

larval skins are present in his collection at Ipswich Museum and show that it was collected at Brandeston (TM 26) on 2 September 1942. Morley (*loc. cit.*) states that "it is pretty surely a mere scavenger in other Beetles' burrows" which is not correct, the larvae feeding on cast spider exuviae and the desiccated remains of spiders' prey in cobwebs under bark. The beetle is normally considered to be associated with ancient broad-leaved woodland and pasture woodland; there are extensive old woodlands adjacent to the Freston locality, but this does not appear to be the case in the Brandeston area and its occurrence on an old willow likewise seems most unusual.

I thank David Lampard, Keeper (Natural History) at the Ipswich Museum for access to the Claude Morley collection.— DAVID R. NASH, 3 Church Lane, Brantham, Suffolk CO11 1PU.

The Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli* (Butler) (Lep.: Lycaenidae) in Granada

During a holiday in southern Spain, my girlfriend and I went to the city of Granada, mainly to visit the magnificent Moorish palace, the Alhambra. On 9 April 2000, after spending several hours in the palace and its gardens, we walked down into the town to get some food. Though the weather was quite dull, I noticed a lycaenid butterfly flitting amongst the awnings outside a row of cafés and bars. Once it had settled, it was clearly identifiable as the Geranium Bronze. Tom Tolman, in the 1997 Collins Field Guide *Butterflies of Britain and Europe* mentions that this species was noted in Granada as long ago as 1995, so unless the butterfly is being constantly re-introduced with its foodplants, our sighting would indicate that the butterfly has maintained its presence in the city for at least five years.— MARTIN J. WHITE, 8 St. Nicholas Square, Maritime Quarter, Swansea SA1 1UG.

Early emergence of *Anthophora plumipes* (Pallas) (Hym.: Anthophoridae)

Anthophora plumipes is a large and distinctive, sexually dimorphic solitary bee which nests in earth banks and occasionally the mortar of buildings. Males are light or tawny brown with plumose middle tarsi. Females are largely black with a distinctive fringe of orange hairs on the hind legs; both look rather like a small bumblebee, but have a less shaggy appearance. Although widespread in Surrey, it is my experience that this species is more abundant in the London suburbs than in the wider countryside, and is especially common in my garden in Mitcham where, on any suitable days, several males and females can be seen at garden flowers between March and May.

As one of the early spring species which can be readily identified, this is a bee which I regularly record and generally note the first emergence each year. My data for the London area suggest that adults usually appear around the middle of March. This year, however, my first record from my garden in Mitcham (TQ2868) was a male on 13 February 2000 and both a male and female on 20 February. Prior to this

I had just one record for February (a male on 15.ii.1998). The range of dates I hold is shown in *Table 1* below.

Table 1. Recorded dates of observations of *Anthophora plumipes* (Pallas) in Surrey

February			March			April				May			June			
8-14	15-21	22-28	1-7	8-14	15-21	22-28	29-4	5-11	12-18	19-25	26-2	3-9	10-16	17-23	24-30	31-6
1	2			2	5	5	4	3	1	6	1	5		1		1

With the growing awareness of early emergence of insects, this strikes me as one which might be investigated in more detail. For example, do they emerge earlier in central London than in the suburbs or in more rural areas? I would be interested to hear from anyone who has records of this species over a period of years, or who would be interested in establishing a monitoring scheme to use this species to investigate the impact of urbanisation on insect emergence.—ROGER K. A. MORRIS, c/o 241 Commonsides East, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1HB.

***Psilota anthracina* Mg. (Dip.: Syrphidae) and *Melanochaeta capreolus* (Haliday) (Dip.: Chloropidae) – two enigmatic species found together at a site in East Kent**

On 24 May 2000, the opportunity to record flies was taken whilst accompanying some sixth form students to Denge Wood near Garlinge Green, East Kent (grid reference TR 106528). The site visited is managed by the Woodland Trust and consists of a small area of west-facing chalk grassland fringed by beech *Fagus sylvatica* and hazel *Corylus avellana* woodland. Management seems concerned largely with maintaining populations of certain orchids, e.g., Lady orchid *Orchis purpurea* and the Duke of Burgundy fritillary *Hamearis lucina* L., although previous visits by myself have also revealed a good diversity of less common insects, such as *Microrhagus pygmaeus* (Fabr.) (Col.: Eucnemidae), *Nymphalis antiopa* L. (Lep.: Nymphalidae) and *Macronychia polyodon* (Mg.) (Dip.: Sarcophagidae) on 1.vi.1998, 16.iv.1996 and 16.vii.1996 respectively.

Between 12.00 and 12.30 hours, sweeping was confined to a small area of recent coppice work around a mature beech in the lowermost part of the reserve, within which someone had built a “camp” of birch *Betula pendula* logs. On returning home, the contents of the pooter were quickly sorted and pinned and the resultant material scanned for unfamiliar forms. The first specimen to deserve closer attention was a deep blue-black fly which, at the time of collection, was taken to be *Hydrotaea ignava* (Harris), being about the same size and equally sluggish in nature. It was only on examining the wing venation that the fly was seen to be a syrphid and subsequent reference to Stubbs and Falk (1983. *British Hoverflies*. British Entomological and Natural History Society), revealed it to be a male *Psilota anthracina* Mg.. Falk (1991. *A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain (part 1)*). Research